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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 8 June 1951

SUBJECT Special Pursuit Brigades; Dumps; Fortifications

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Special Pursuit Brigades

1. The Special Pursuit Brigades were established one month after the abolition of the People's Security Division.¹ Their mission is the pursuit of armed anti-Communist guerrilla bands operating within Albanian territory.
2. Since they are a branch of the Security Corps, the Special Pursuit Brigades are subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. There are two Special Pursuit Brigades. One is based at Burrel and the other at Tepelena. They are composed of paid civilians who have already served their term in the Army. The officers are the officers of the former People's Security Division and of its regiments; the non-commissioned officers have served their time in the Army. The weapons of these brigades are light and consist of German rifles, sub-machine guns and automatic rifles. Enlisted men receive up to 3500 lek per month. The officers receive 4000 lek and up.

Dumps

3. There is an ammunition dump at M. 425-008 within a Mohammedan shrine (Tokes). This store belongs to 5 Division of Gjinokaster and is guarded by it. The guard of 12 soldiers is changed daily. On the height above the building there are two anti-aircraft machine guns of Soviet make, for the protection of the ammunition store. These guns are manned by 14 soldiers.
4. There is an ammunition dump at Viros (M. 438-047) in a one-story building. It belongs to 7 Infantry Regiment. At 80 to 100 meters east of this there are two other dumps in one-story buildings. One of these belongs to 31 Infantry Regiment, and the other to the Supply Command of the Gjinokaster 5 Division. The dumps are surrounded by barbed wire fences and each one is guarded by a group of 7 to 10 men.
5. There is an ammunition dump at Rusanin (P. 387-882) near Delvine; it is located in two houses, one of one story and the other of two stories. The location is marked by a group of plane trees. This dump belongs to 18 Infantry Regiment of Delvine and is guarded by a squad belonging to the Reconnaissance Platoon of the regiment and equipped with sub-machine guns.

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-2-

25X1A

6. There is an ammunition dump at A. 97-48 in the vicinity of Vlone. It is located in a one-story Italian building which measures about 40 x 10 meters and is 4 meters high. This dump contains artillery shells, but informant does not know to what unit they belong.

Fortifications

7. A second fortification line completed in 1949 begins at Qafe e Gjashtes (R. 35-80) to Vryoni (R. 36-80) and goes along the river Kalases to Finiq (R. 37-83) thence to Mesopotam (R. 40-83), and it follows the north bank of the River Bistrice. It passes south of the village of Pece (R. 48-84) and continues towards Murzine (R. 50-84). This defense line consists of machine gun and artillery positions at definite intervals. Some of these positions are of the guerrilla type (sic) and others are of reinforced concrete.

25X1A

1. Comment: Abolished in October 1949.

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